

29th November 1923] [Mr. T. N. Sivagnanam Pillai]

have only Rs. 8 lakhs to be disbursed. The Board should, therefore, set to work almost immediately to dispose of this matter. If the date is very early next month, it will be quite enough."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ I shall arrange for this early in December when we meet again.”

VII

DRAFT RULES REGARDING THE ALTERATION OF SCHEDULE UNDER SECTION 201 OF THE MADRAS LOCAL BOARDS ACT.

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ Mr. President, I beg to move :—

‘ That the following draft of the rule proposed to be made by the Local Government under section 201 of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, altering Schedule VI of the Act be approved.’

Draft Rule.

In exercise of the powers conferred on them by sub-section (1) of section 201 of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, the Local Government propose to make the following rule, altering Schedule VI of the said Act :—

“ In the list of dangerous diseases specified in Schedule VI the following Amendment shall be made, viz., between the items ‘ Glanders ’ and ‘ Leprosy ’, the item ‘ Influenza ’ and between the items ‘ Plague ’ and ‘ Smallpox ’ the item ‘ Relapsing fever ’ shall be inserted.”

“ Sir, the amendments are merely formal. These diseases, influenza and relapsing fever, have been declared to be dangerous.”

The hon. Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—“ I second the Motion.”

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—“ Sir, I propose an Amendment to this draft rule, and that is, to delete the words,

between the items ‘ glanders ’ and ‘ leprosy ’ the item ‘ influenza ’ and.

Sir, influenza (simple) is not a dangerous disease, because it has become so common now all over the Presidency, especially in Madras, that almost every one of us has suffered from it, and I have no doubt that many Members here are even now suffering from influenza (laughter). A cold and cough is enough to constitute influenza. But there is danger only when influenza develops into pneumonia. In England, Sir, it is only influenzal pneumonia that is notified and not mere influenza. If the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government would change it into pneumonia (acute influenzal), I have no objection. But to say that influenza is to be notified would mean that almost the whole population of the city of Madras should come under the notification. You would only be harassing the people if influenza is to become a notifiable disease. So only pneumonia caused by influenza should be notified.”

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ So, the hon. Member’s Amendment is to delete the word ‘ influenza ’ and to insert the word ‘ pneumonia ’. Is that so ? ”

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—“ To substitute for the word ‘ influenza ’ the words ‘ pneumonia (acute influenzal). ’ That is the disease notified in England.”

[29th November 1923]

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—“ I beg to second that amendment, Sir. It is always very difficult to find out the difference between ordinary cold and influenza, unless and until influenza develops into pneumonia. Even the ablest physicians are unable to diagnose and find out whether a case on hand is an ordinary case of cold or influenza, and it is much more difficult for ordinary physicians to diagnose the disease. So, mere influenza ought not to be allowed to go into the rule.”

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ The amendment before the House is :

for the word ‘Influenza’ in the draft rule substitute the words ‘Pneumonia (acute influenzal)’.”

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—“ May I know from the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government whether this alteration in the list of dangerous diseases has been incorporated into either the City Municipal Act or the District Municipalities Act? We find that the alteration is now proposed to be made only in the Madras Local Boards Act.”

Mr. P. L. MOORE :—“ The alteration has been incorporated in the District Municipalities Act. The Government have passed orders making the alteration in that Act as they have the power to do so. But, for the Local Boards Act, the Government not having any such power, this Council has to make the alteration.”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ Mr. President, though it is somewhat a matter of drafting, I think there is a puzzle with regard to the amendment proposed. The list of diseases is given in Schedule VI of the Local Boards Act thus : anthrax, chickenpox, and so on. Now we are asked to add pneumonia (acute influenzal). In the construction of a statute, brackets do not convey any particular significance. Therefore, are the terms of the amendment to be construed as referring to pneumonia as equivalent to acute influenza, or acute influenza as equivalent to pneumonia ? ”

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—“ Then, Sir, let me put it as ‘ Influenzal Pneumonia ’. Influenza by itself is not a dangerous disease, for people recover from it in three days. It is dangerous only when it develops into pneumonia. Influenza has become so very common that almost every one suffers from it or will suffer from it.”

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ The hon. Member would probably like to have the words ‘ Influenzal Pneumonia ’.”

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—“ Among the notifiable diseases in England, pneumonia (acute influenzal) is one. But here, if brackets are not wanted, or are objectionable, I would propose ‘ Influenzal Pneumonia ’.”

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ If brackets are allowed in England, why should they not be allowed here? What has the hon. the Law Member to say ? ”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ Mr. President, supposing we have brackets, then the question is whether a person who is suffering from influenza is suffering from pneumonia also, or a person suffering from pneumonia is also suffering from acute influenza. I mean that the brackets have practically no meaning. I have not examined the English Act ; but I am prepared to be advised by persons versed enough in Medicine, like our hon. Friend Dr. Natesan.”

29th November 1923]

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—“Pneumonia means inflammation of the lungs. Inflammation may be brought about by influenzal germs, or by pneumonial germs, or by tuberculosis germs. In the case of pneumonia (acute influenza), inflammation is brought about by influenzal germs.”

Mr. M. RATNASWAMI :—“I suggest pneumoniac influenza to be the term that may be put in.” (Laughter.)

Mr. P. L. MOORE :—“I am afraid the Government cannot do anything without consulting their experts on a question like this. I very well realize that there is a great deal of medical knowledge in this House; but we could not make this alteration without consulting the Surgeon-General. With regard to the disease, it is said that influenza, except in its acute stage, is not dangerous. I think such a statement can be applied to any disease. All that I know is that the disease has taken away the lives of six million people in the year 1918–19. I do not think, Sir, we are in a position to accept any amendment without consulting our medical experts.”

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—“The question was put by my hon. Friend, Mr. Krishna Rao, whether this was extended to the District Municipalities Act. I believe Mr. Moore answered him that a notification was issued extending it to the municipalities. I find that in the Madras City Municipal Act under section 3, there is a definition of the dangerous diseases. Under section 329 powers are given to extend it to the Madras City. In the case of district municipalities section 287 says ‘Dangerous disease’ means a disease specified in Schedule VI; and I do not remember if the District Municipalities Act has been amended. If so, I would like to know when. In this case no power is given to the executive to notify any disease as dangerous disease under the District Municipalities Act. Now the question is, without applying this to the district municipalities, is it reasonable that these provisions should be extended to the rural areas where medical help is difficult to obtain and, therefore, correct diagnosis is impossible? I want to know if I can oppose the motion itself in view of the fact that my hon. Friend, Dr. Natesan, has moved his amendment.”

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“The hon. Member can certainly do that.”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“Sir, I have no objection to adopt the wording adopted in the English Act.”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“I only want to say one word, Sir. With the courtesy of my hon. Friend, Dr. Natesan, I have the English Act here before me. There it is clear that two forms of pneumonia are notified. They are (1) pneumonia primary and (2) pneumonia acute influenza. It will be remembered that with regard to these notified types of diseases, all are enjoined not to mix with the public and so forth, and penalties are imposed for any disobedience. I only want to say that the safest course would be to adopt the English Acts if they will meet with the wishes of the hon. Members of the medical fraternity in this House.”

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—“The hon. the Law Member wants to make even common pneumonia notifiable. Common pneumonia is caused by the slightest inflammation of the lungs, consolidation preceding it, and influenzal pneumonia is a different thing. The latter should be notified, but not common pneumonia. If common pneumonia also is sought to be included, let us have a separate day for the discussion. As Mr. Narasimha

[Mr. C. Natesa Mudaliyar] [29th November 1923]

Raju said, what is the use of including the ordinary pneumonia and harassing people where they do not have adequate medical help and aid to diagnose the disease even, especially in villages.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“ Sir, we do not seem to have begun our work auspiciously to-day. For, Sir, with regard to the first item of the agenda, we have adjourned it before you came, and then, with regard to other matters also, we had to adjourn almost every one to a future date. Even in this case, Sir, we may adjourn the matter so that the Chief Minister may, in the meanwhile, consult his medical experts.”

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ The motion having been made already and an amendment having also been moved, I think the best course would be for both hon. Members, the Chief Minister and the hon. Member Dr. Natesan, to withdraw their motions. Dr. Natesan will probably withdraw his amendment.”

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—“ I shall withdraw my amendment if I have the right of moving a similar amendment if the Chief Minister comes back with the same motion.”

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ The hon. Member's right to move amendments is inherent in him.” (Laughter.)

Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR :—“ I beg leave to withdraw my amendment.”

The amendment was by leave of the House withdrawn.

The motion by the hon. the Raja of Panagal was then by leave of the House withdrawn.

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ Now let us make the position clear. There is nothing before the House. The whole thing will be carefully examined and a fresh motion tabled by the hon. the Chief Minister.”

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—“ Especially when we are dealing with dangerous diseases, Sir.” (Laughter.)

VIII

MOTION FOR REAPPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM GRANT XVII EDUCATION—NON-EUROPEAN—TRANSFERRED TO GRANT XVI. EUROPEAN EDUCATION—RESERVED.

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP :—“ I beg to move the motion standing against my name—

That the provision of Rs. 66,480 under ‘Grant XVII. Education (Non-European)—Transferred’ for charges connected with the Reformatory School, Chingleput, and the Certified School for Boys at Ranipet may be reappropriated to ‘Grant XVI. European Education—Reserved.’

“ This, I am glad to say, is a matter of mere formality and not as complicated as the other proposals which have been taken up this morning. At the end of April last the Accountant-General called attention to the fact that in entering the charges for the Reformatory School under the Transferred side of the budget we had made a mistake: I do not know who made the mistake, but the mistake has been made. He informed us that we should make the necessary alterations in respect of the current year's budget. All